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- Foreign and Defense Policy of Ukraine
- The course of the Russian-Ukrainian war

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Ukraine – European Union

- *THEME ANALYSIS: Ukraine's security guarantees as a test of Europe's subjectivity*



Photo: AP

Following the summit between US President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Alaska on August 16, 2025, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited Washington on August 18 to discuss the possibility of reaching a peace agreement. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, Finnish President Alexander Stubb, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, French President Emmanuel Macron, and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The meetings took place in several stages: first, Trump had a separate conversation with Zelenskyy, after which the European leaders joined in. The talks were then interrupted by a phone call between Trump and Putin.

In conclusion, Zelenskyy expressed his gratitude to European partners for their presence. "It was an important signal. A demonstration of strong support from the EU and other European countries. They came in person to support Ukraine and discuss the key issue: what to do next, how to help our country and ensure a just and lasting peace," the Ukrainian president said during a briefing.

During the talks in the Oval Office, European leaders expressed a common position: a ceasefire must be achieved in Ukraine. "Frankly speaking, we all want a truce starting from the next meeting. It is difficult to imagine that it will take place without a ceasefire. So let's work on this and increase pressure on Russia," German Chancellor Friedrich Merz summed

up Europe's position. French President Emmanuel Macron supported him, stressing that before organizing new summits, it is necessary first of all to stop human casualties¹.

Instead, ***Donald Trump insists on a broader peace agreement.*** In a conversation with Volodymyr Zelensky, he explained that he generally supports the idea of a truce, but had to reject it because “strategically, it could create an imbalance for one of the parties.” Trump expressed the same opinion after meeting with Vladimir Putin in Alaska, stating that “the most effective way to end the war is to sign a direct peace agreement, not just a ceasefire agreement, which is usually short-lived.”

Before the start of negotiations in Washington, the US made it clear that it was considering providing Ukraine with security guarantees similar to NATO's Article 5, albeit outside the Alliance itself. In the Oval Office, Trump confirmed that this issue would be discussed with the Europeans and Zelensky, and said that Putin had already given his preliminary consent. At the same time, he did not specify whether the US was ready to send its troops to Ukraine as part of a potential agreement.

Following the talks, Zelensky said that he had presented his vision of Ukrainian security guarantees to the allies. According to him, the document will be finalized within ten days and will include, among other things, funding for the purchase of weapons. He stressed that the United States would participate in these guarantees, coordinate them, and that there was already “political will and decision.” Separately, during the meetings, Trump interrupted his conversation with European leaders to call Putin. After the conversation, he said that he had begun preparations for a meeting between Putin and Zelensky, after which it is planned **a trilateral summit involving the presidents of Ukraine, Russia, and the United States.**

The date and location of the upcoming meeting have not yet been determined. However, according to Friedrich Merz, it should take place within two weeks. The German chancellor, however, doubts that Putin will “dare” to attend the summit with Zelensky. Emmanuel Macron also expressed caution. He said: “I have serious doubts about the sincerity of the Russian president's desire for peace. As long as he believes he can win the war, he will continue to fight.” At the same time, the French leader proposed holding talks in Geneva. For his part, Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed his readiness to meet with Putin and stressed that the issue of territories should be discussed during personal negotiations. At the time of publication, the Kremlin had not officially confirmed the Russian president's participation.

A separate issue discussed in Washington was the return of Ukrainian children. Zelensky said that Donald Trump had agreed to help not only with the exchange of prisoners — military, civilian, and political prisoners — but also with the return of children home. “The second point is children. The First Lady of the United States and the entire US team will be involved in this difficult, painful, and extremely important process,” said the Ukrainian president. European leaders also stressed the importance of this issue. Ursula von der Leyen said: “As a mother and grandmother, I believe that every child should return to their family. This should be one of the main priorities of the negotiations — to ensure that children return to Ukraine.”

The most important outcome was that ***Kyiv and its European partners managed to avoid an open conflict with Donald Trump and avert the threat of a freeze on military aid and intelligence sharing.*** Moreover, for the first time, the US president confirmed Washington's readiness to participate directly in the security guarantee system for Ukraine — something Kyiv has been seeking for years.

¹ Трамп, Зеленський і лідери Європи: підсумки зустрічі у США. 19.08.2025.

<https://www.dw.com/uk/zustric-trampa-z-evropejcam-i-ta-zelenskim-u-bilomu-domi-pidsumki-peregovoriv/a-73688971>

The declared guarantees cover the supply of weapons, defense funding, and the potential presence of allies on Ukrainian territory. Some officials compare them to the equivalent of NATO's Article 5, albeit outside the Alliance itself, so as not to provoke a “nervous reaction” from Moscow. For Kyiv, this may be an acceptable interim option, but abandoning the course towards NATO would mean a strategic defeat, as no coalition can replace the Alliance's preventive power.

Trump also announced preparations for a meeting between Putin and Zelensky. Ukraine is hoping for a breakthrough, while the Kremlin is traditionally avoiding direct answers. The question remains open: is Putin ready to test the unity of the West by refusing to negotiate? And will Zelensky be able to maintain enough arguments to defend Ukraine's territorial interests without additional pressure from Washington? It was particularly telling that **on the issue of a ceasefire, Trump has effectively moved closer to the Kremlin's position.** For Kyiv and Europeans, this is a painful compromise that they have agreed to in order not to disrupt the diplomatic initiative. **The result is obvious: the war may drag on, and the issue of de-occupation remains on the periphery of the discussion. This is a signal not only to Putin, but also to Ukrainian society: the issue of returning territories has been deliberately postponed.**

The only **Zelensky's significant advantage was the unity demonstrated by Ukraine and Europe**, which forced the White House to make concessions. American public opinion also played a role: even some Republican media outlets sharply criticized the results of the summit in Alaska and warned that concessions to the Kremlin would lead to disaster. However, **Key issues — the status of Donbas, possible “territorial compromises,” and real security guarantee mechanisms — remain unresolved.** Without answers to these questions, current peace initiatives appear to be more of a tactical pause than a genuine breakthrough.

The Washington summit between Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US President Donald Trump, which was also attended by leading European leaders, was the second important event after the August meeting between Trump and Vladimir Putin in Alaska. At that time, the very appearance of the “US-Russia” format caused concern in Europe: politicians hastily sought opportunities to influence the process and prevent decisions from being made without their participation. The Washington meeting took on a different look. The European Union effectively “woke up”: several leaders interrupted their vacations to fly in to support Zelensky; immediately after the talks, a night meeting of EU ambassadors was held via videoconference; and the presidents and prime ministers of the 30 states of the “Coalition of the Willing” held emergency online summits on security guarantees for Ukraine.

This time, they discussed issues directly related to European security: guarantees for Ukraine, EU financial commitments worth tens of billions of dollars, and a new balance in relations between the US, Europe, and Russia. **While after Alaska, the prevailing impression in European capitals was that the very fact of Trump's meeting with Putin was a victory for Moscow, Washington put specifics on the agenda: what guarantees Ukraine should receive and who would provide them.** According to the Financial Times and The Wall Street Journal, the draft document includes four key elements: 1) military presence, 2) air defense, 3) arms supplies, and 4) monitoring compliance with the ceasefire. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is to lead the coordination of this process. About thirty countries are joining the effort, ranging from NATO members to partners in Asia and the Pacific region.²

² Після Вашингтона: що означають переговори Зеленського, Трампа і ще семи європейських лідерів. 19.08.2025. <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/pislya-vashynhtona-perehovory-analiz/33507569.html>

In recent days, Trump has repeatedly stated the need for “strong guarantees” for Ukraine, similar to NATO's Article 5, but without joining the Alliance. At the same time, he stressed that there would be no American troops in Ukraine, although the US would contribute to the guarantees in certain ways. **The main burden of responsibility, he said, will fall on Europe.** “It is clear that all of Europe must participate. This is not only a question of Ukrainian territory, but also of the political structure of the continent,” emphasized German Chancellor Friedrich Merz.

Despite relative optimism, doubts remain. Trump's statements on security seem rather vague, and European experts question whether he is really ready to change the course of the US — from his pre-election promises to “get out of the war and out of Europe” to practical participation in new guarantees. Political scientist and founder of Brussels Freedom Hub Roland Frodenstein predicts that in the coming days, European capitals will be forced to publicly report who is ready to provide what forces, how many troops, and what weapons. To be honest, Europe itself bears some of the responsibility. For more than six months, there have been discussions about “security guarantees” for Ukraine, which have since transformed into a vague concept of “assurance forces”: no ground troops, only ships in the Black Sea or planes in Ukrainian skies. **There are still no specifics, and it is difficult to imagine that they will appear in the next ten days,** Roland Frodenstein noted in a comment to Radio Liberty.

However, Jan Lesser, head of the German Marshall Fund in Brussels, views the situation with greater optimism. In his opinion, Ukraine does not need a foreign contingent comparable in size to the Russian army. It is enough to create a reliable “trigger” that will link Ukraine to the broader European security system and make it part of the commitments of powerful players, including the US. This will be less than Kyiv would like, but at the same time it may prove sufficient.

The financial dimension became a separate topic in Washington. Volodymyr Zelensky proposed that Ukraine purchase \$100 billion worth of weapons from the US, provided that the European Union finances the deal. Although the figure sounds astronomical, European capitals do not consider it fantastical. “The EU has already approved programs worth €800 billion to rearm Europe itself, and that includes aid to Ukraine. So money is not a problem,” Frodenstein reminds us. In recent years, Brussels has developed a mechanism of joint debt instruments that allow funds to be quickly mobilized for emergency programs. ***And the main question is whether the US and Europe will be able to physically ensure the production of the necessary number of weapons?*** Part of the funding will likely go toward developing Ukraine's defense sector, which has already proven its effectiveness in drones, artillery, and armored vehicles. Financially, the idea seems entirely feasible, but the main challenge remains the pace of expansion of defense production. After talks in Washington, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasized the common position of Europe and the US on supporting Ukraine. She posted a photo from the White House showing leading European leaders standing next to Donald Trump, highlighting the symbolic significance of the moment.

According to von der Leyen, the meeting confirmed the unity of the West on issues of peace and security in Europe. ***The United States and European countries continue to work together to shape a new security architecture that takes into account Ukraine's needs, strengthens stability on the continent, and deters further Russian aggression.*** She stressed that the main task is to ensure lasting and fair peace for Ukraine, as well as to create reliable guarantee mechanisms that would prevent the recurrence of war. Thus, the Washington meeting was another step in consolidating allies around the Ukrainian issue. Von der Leyen's

statement once again demonstrates that European institutions and leaders of member states remain committed to supporting Kyiv both militarily and diplomatically, and that partnership with the US remains a key factor in the West's common strategy.

Another unpleasant surprise was Trump's call to Putin and the announcement of a trilateral meeting with Ukraine. European leaders have expressed doubts about Putin's sincerity, and experts emphasize that the Kremlin will seek to “play for time.” The international media noted cautious optimism. CNN called the summit “historic,” Politico called it “a bad day for Putin,” and Der Spiegel noted the relief of Europeans after the meeting. Ukrainian experts define the main achievement as “the maximum possible”: the restoration of Western unity, Trump's return to a constructive position, and a change in the tone of the dialogue.

Ahead lie the formalization of security guarantees, diplomatic negotiations on a future agreement, and continued confrontation on the front lines. **The summit was not a breakthrough, but it gave Ukraine and its allies an important tactical victory, showing that transatlantic unity can influence even the most unpredictable world leaders.**

In general, **after Alaska, it seems that two blocs have formed: Russia and the US, and Europe and Ukraine.** Europe already understands that Ukraine's fate is Europe's fate. That is why European leaders are now doing everything they can to pull pro-Russian America back, but they still lack political leverage. However, they are sticking to their strategy of stalling for time and diplomatic flirting with Trump. Nevertheless, today it is a coordinated political bloc.

Foreign and Defense Policy of Ukraine

- *THEME ANALYSIS: Alaska as a historical Rubicon of the US losing its hegemony*



Source: Getty Images

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in Anchorage, Alaska, in a 3-on-3 format at around 10:10 p.m. Kyiv time. The Russian side was represented by Putin, Yuri Ushakov, and Sergey Lavrov, while the American side was represented by Trump, Stephen Witkoff, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The talks lasted almost three hours. The press conference took place half an hour earlier than scheduled, but both presidents made only one statement each and did not answer questions from journalists.

In his speech, Putin spoke at length about history, particularly Alaska, and repeated the thesis of “the unity of Ukrainians and Russians.” He hinted at the need to end the war, but did not provide any specifics regarding a ceasefire or specific agreements. Putin devoted most of his speech to complimenting Trump and praising economic cooperation between the countries, adding that there would be no war if Trump were president in 2022. Trump, in turn, also did not disclose any details and acknowledged that no agreement had been reached on the war in Ukraine. He promised to inform Volodymyr Zelensky and European partners about the results of the negotiations. Both presidents joked about the possibility of holding the next meeting in Russia, although the seriousness of this remark remained unclear. The working lunch scheduled after the summit was canceled, and all participants returned home.

Putin said he was “sincerely interested” in ending the conflict, which he called a “tragedy.” He reiterated that it was important to address the “root causes of the conflict” and warned that Ukraine and Europe should not “sabotage” the negotiations. Putin described the summit as a “starting point for resolving” the conflict, characterized his relationship with Trump as “businesslike,” and agreed with the US president's statement that the war would not have started if Trump had remained in power after the 2020 election.

Trump noted that differences remain and that although some progress has been made, “an agreement has not yet been reached.” He added that many points have been agreed upon, but

“a few” remain, including one “very important” one, without specifying which one. Trump promised to call Zelensky and European leaders soon, stressing that “ultimately, it's up to them.” He also suggested that he would meet with Putin again, to which Putin replied, “Next time in Moscow.”³ In an interview with Fox News, Trump suggested a three-way meeting with Putin and Zelensky, noting that if they wanted it, he would be there. At the same time, it was unclear who would organize the meeting and at what stage preparations were. The US president expressed the opinion that they are close to an agreement and that Ukraine must now agree and involve European countries. He said he would advise Zelensky to conclude the agreement, but did not specify the details. Trump rated the summit in Alaska 10 out of 10, emphasizing the importance of communication between major nuclear powers. At the same time, he noted that the agreement was blocked by “one important thing,” without revealing what exactly prevented the agreement. The US president acknowledged that he discussed the exchange of territories and security guarantees with Putin, and that they reached agreement on some points, without specifying which ones.

Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov said that it is currently unknown when the next meeting between Putin and Trump will take place, and that a trilateral meeting with Zelensky was not discussed. When asked about sanctions against Russia, Trump replied that he does not currently plan to impose them and needs 2-3 weeks to think it over. He stressed that the meeting went very well. Before flying to Alaska, Trump spoke to reporters and confirmed that he had discussed a possible exchange of territories, but that the final decision would be up to Ukraine. He emphasized that his task was to bring the parties to the negotiating table, not to negotiate on behalf of Ukraine.

The US president also reminded that without him, Putin would seek to seize all of Ukraine, and that there are “many businessmen” in the Russian delegation, which is good, but they will not be able to do business while the war continues. The main topic of the summit in Alaska was the war in Ukraine. However, as the Wall Street Journal notes, **For the Kremlin, the priority was not peace talks, but an attempt to break out of international isolation and “reset” Russian-American relations.** Russian officials discussed potential joint projects with the US in the Arctic, energy, and infrastructure. Kirill Dmitriev, one of Putin's advisors, stated that the dialogue between the leaders would “bring hope, peace, and global security,” noting that neoconservatives and “warmongers” would be dissatisfied. Former ambassador Alexander Yakovenko added that *resolving the war in Ukraine is secondary to normalizing relations with the US and is merely an obstacle that must be overcome.*

Some Western diplomats and Russian analysts believe that **Putin is confident of victory on the front lines and hopes for a change of power in Kyiv, especially after the reduction in US military aid.** Political scientist Abbas Gallyamov notes that the Kremlin is ready to make minor concessions, but has no intention of ending the war and seeks to separate the Ukrainian issue from relations with the US: the “ideal scenario” for Moscow is to talk about business, the Arctic, and security, while ignoring Ukraine.

Analysts also point out that for **Putin the fact of negotiating with Trump on US soil is already a diplomatic triumph.** According to their estimates, he may agree to a limited ceasefire, which would halt strikes on Russian oil and military infrastructure and civil aviation. BBC correspondent Miroslava Petsa notes the atmosphere in Anchorage: locals joked about Alaska and Russia, and more yellow and blue symbols appeared in the city. People hung Ukrainian flags on their houses and cars, held pro-Ukrainian rallies, knew about the children deported by Russia, and demanded their return. Many of the participants had

³ Не домовились, але угода близько? Головні підсумки зустріч Путіна і Трампа на Алясці. 15.08.2025.
<https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/articles/c5yp95re5lno>

previously visited Ukraine as volunteers or tourists and supported Ukrainians, sometimes apologizing for the policies of the US government.

Despite this, preparations for the summit were extremely rapid — less than a week passed between the announcement and the event itself. Alaska has hosted summits before, but the last such meeting took place 40 years ago. According to former Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich, concerns have been raised about possible surveillance equipment on board Putin's plane and the fact that it landed at a US military base. Donald Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton believes that **Following the meeting in Alaska, the American leader did not lose, but Vladimir Putin appears to be the winner.** He expressed this opinion on CNN, according to Ukrinform. Bolton noted that Trump left the summit with almost no concrete results, having achieved nothing more than “new meetings,” while Putin, in his opinion, made significant progress in restoring relations with the US, avoided new sanctions, and is not obliged to cease fire. Bolton added that even Zelensky was not informed of the details of these agreements before the press conference, and concluded: “Putin got most of what he wanted, and Trump got very little.” The former adviser also noted that Trump looked “very tired” after the summit.

Putin has not visited the US since 2015, when he attended the UN General Assembly in New York. **Trump's invitation to the US brought the Russian leader out of international isolation:** Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Putin has not visited any Western countries. The AP agency notes that this is also the first official trip by any Russian president to Alaska. These territories were formerly a Russian colony, but in 1867, Tsar Alexander II sold Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million. Professor Sam Green of King's College London noted the symbolism of Alaska as a venue for negotiations on Ukraine — “as if to demonstrate that borders can be changed, land can be bought and sold.”

The meeting place — the Elmendorf-Richardson Joint Base of the US Air Force and Army near Anchorage — echoes the Cold War, when anti-missile posts and reconnaissance systems were located here to deter the USSR. Despite its proximity to Russia (88 km to the shortest distance between the mainland), the flight from Moscow to Anchorage takes about nine hours, and from Washington, D.C., about eight. Alaska is a “safe” place for Putin because he does not risk arrest under an International Criminal Court warrant, and the air route does not cross countries where problems may arise. Putin's last visit to the West was in 2021 in Geneva, where he met with Joe Biden amid a Russian military buildup near the Ukrainian border, but this did not prevent the 2022 invasion.

The American side, including White House spokeswoman Levitt, Rubio, and Pentagon chief Hagseth, positioned the summit as a “listening exercise” so that Trump could personally assess Putin's willingness to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine. Rubio noted that previous telephone contacts had been unsuccessful, so the president wanted to “look Putin in the eye.” Putin's aide Ushakov named the main topic of the talks as the settlement of the war in Ukraine, in particular “taking into account the discussions in the Kremlin with Vitkoff.” At the same time, it was planned to discuss bilateral economic cooperation and global security issues.

A few days before the summit, the Russian Foreign Ministry repeated its demands for the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the unoccupied areas of four regions and Ukraine's refusal to join NATO. The Kremlin insists that “Russia's territorial structure is enshrined in the Constitution,” meaning that it seeks to retain the occupied territories of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Initially, representatives of the Trump administration considered the possibility of Zelenskyy's participation in the talks in Alaska. However, on August 13-14, Donald Trump made it clear that he would prefer to hold a separate trilateral meeting with Putin and Zelensky if he considers the summit in Alaska to be productive. The location of such a potential meeting has not yet been determined, but Trump suggested that Alaska could be the most convenient option. Reuters notes that the meeting could also take place in Europe or the Middle East, while Bloomberg specified that Turkey could be the venue, which Trump allegedly mentioned in a conversation with Zelensky and European leaders.

The results of the conversation on August 13 allowed Zelensky to define five key principles for Ukraine: a ceasefire; tougher sanctions against Russia if it refuses to agree to a truce; discussion of all issues concerning Ukraine exclusively with its representatives; preparation for trilateral negotiations; and security guarantees for Ukraine. Politico reported similar expectations, including a lasting ceasefire until territorial issues are resolved, strong security guarantees, compensation for damages, and the return of abducted children and prisoners. Zelensky also stressed that Ukraine would never agree to Putin's demand to withdraw troops from the unoccupied parts of Donbas.

Analysts did not expect significant progress from the summit in Alaska. A trilateral meeting between Trump, Zelensky, and Putin is only possible if Trump considers the negotiations with Putin to be successful. According to Axios, even if the Alaska summit fails, Trump does not plan to stop NATO arms supplies to Ukraine. He remains “angry” at Putin, and the administration believes that the US has the ability to quickly “destroy the Russian economy.” When asked about the consequences for Russia in the absence of a peace agreement, Trump replied, “Yes, there will be consequences,” but did not specify the details, only adding that they would be “very serious.” He estimated the probability of a failed meeting at 25% and said that in that case he would return “to running the country.”⁴ “If the meeting goes badly, I will go home and not call anyone. But if it is successful, I will call Zelensky and European leaders,” Trump concluded.

This event will go down in history books as symbolic and decisive in the decline of the American era, when the hegemon of the West became a laughing stock and a toy in the eyes of its opponents, whom it had once powerfully defeated. And Donald Trump satisfied his ego by going down in history, not as the great peacemaker he dreamed of being, but as the pompous peacemaker who destroyed an empire.

⁴ Деізоляція диктатора на Алясці. Сьогодні Трамп говоритиме про Україну з Путіним, який не був на Заході від початку вторгнення — чого чекати. 15.08.2025.
<https://nv.ua/ukr/world/geopolitics/zustrich-trampa-i-putina-na-alyasci-yaka-osobлива-rol-miscya-rozklad-temi-scenariji-y-chervoni-liniji-50537038.html>



Source: Army FM

■ Changes at the frontline

Trend: *Russian troops have begun a “decisive” breakthrough in Donbas.*

The key objective remains unchanged – to capture the Pokrovsk-Kramatorsk-Sloviansk agglomeration.

The main breakthrough is aimed at capturing the fortress city of Pokrovsk. To this end, the enemy has deployed experienced marine units and other formations totaling up to 100,000 troops to the Pokrovsk area and adjusted its tactics. Currently, the Russians are infiltrating the city in small groups or even individually, trying to avoid engaging in combat with Ukrainian troops. The enemy's main goal in Pokrovsk is to get as close as possible to the positions of drone operators or mortar gunners, try to disperse our defense forces, consolidate their positions, and expand the boundaries of the “gray zone.” At the same time, the occupiers have intensified their assault operations on the flanks using armored vehicles, cars, and motorcycles. In this way, the Russians are trying to cut off the logistics of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and surround the Pokrovsk agglomeration.

However, despite the enemy's highly intensive offensive actions, the Ukrainian Defense Forces are adapting their defensive tactics and logistics and taking measures to block enemy forces in a specific area. All available forces and means are being used to destroy Russian equipment.⁵.

⁵ РФ готує "вирішальний" прорив на Донбасі – ЗСУ.
<https://aspi.com.ua/news/politika/rf-gotue-virishalnyi-proriv-na-donbasi-zsu#gsc.tab=0>

In the Kupyansk direction, the Defense Forces repelled the enemy's assault actions in the areas of the settlements of Kupyansk, Petropavlivka and Kolisnykovka.

In the Lymansk direction, the enemy is trying to advance near the settlements of Karpivka, Andriivka, towards Olhivka and Shandryholovy.

In the Siversk direction, the aggressor attacked near Hryhorivka, Serebryanka, Dronivka, Fedorivka, Viyimka and towards Dibrova.

In the Kramatorsk direction, the Defense Forces repelled numerous enemy attacks near Stupochky.

In the Toretsk direction, the enemy attacked in the areas of Pleshchiivka, Rusyn Yar and Poltavka.

In the Pokrovsky direction, our defenders stopped numerous attacks by the aggressor in the areas of the settlements of Shakhove, Nykanorivka, Rodynske, Novoeconomichne, Mayak, Rubizhne, Sukhyi Yar, Shevchenko, Promin, Pokrovsk, Kotlyne, Udachne, Dachne and in the direction of Filiya and Novopavlivka.

In the Novopavlivka direction, the Defense Forces repelled enemy attacks in the areas of the settlements of Zelenyi Gai, Filiya, Piddubne, Oleksandrograd, Voskresenka, Temyrivka, Shevchenko, Maliivka, Komyshevakh.

■ *Military aid*

Sweden, Norway and Denmark will finance the supply of American weapons to Ukraine within the framework of the new PURL initiative, which is coordinated by NATO. The cost of the aid packages is estimated at 5 billion Norwegian kroner.

Germany transferred two Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine within the framework of an agreement with the United States.

USA. The US State Department has approved a possible sale of repair, maintenance and logistics services for M777 howitzers to Ukraine for \$203.5 million. The US Department of Defense has been given the opportunity to redirect certain types of weapons and equipment intended for Ukraine back to US stocks. The administration of the President of the United States of America Donald Trump has approved the sale of more than 3,000 Extended Range Attack Munition (ERAM) missiles to Ukraine. The weapons could arrive in about six weeks.

Latvia will join NATO's initiative to purchase American weapons for Ukraine and will allocate at least 2 million euros for this.

Europe has provided Ukraine with an additional \$1.5 billion for the purchase of American weapons as part of the PURL defense support initiative for Kyiv.

■ *Russia: External and internal challenges*

Trend: *A step towards to peace for the continuation of war*

US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in Anchorage, Alaska, in a 3-on-3 format at around 10:10 p.m. Kyiv time. The Russian side was represented by Putin, Yuri Ushakov, and Sergey Lavrov, while the American side was represented by Trump, Stephen Witkoff, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The talks lasted almost three hours. The press conference took place half an hour earlier than scheduled, but both presidents made only one statement each and did not answer questions from journalists.

In his speech, Putin spoke at length about history, particularly Alaska, and repeated the thesis of “the unity of Ukrainians and Russians.” He hinted at the need to end the war, but did not provide any specifics regarding a ceasefire or specific agreements. Putin devoted most of his speech to complimenting Trump and praising economic cooperation between the countries, adding that there would be no war if Trump were president in 2022. Trump, in turn, also did not disclose any details and acknowledged that no agreement had been reached on the war in Ukraine. He promised to inform Volodymyr Zelensky and European partners about the results of the negotiations. Both presidents joked about the possibility of holding the next meeting in Russia, although the seriousness of this remark remained unclear. The working lunch scheduled after the summit was canceled, and all participants returned home.

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Trump noted that differences remain and that although some progress has been made, “an agreement has not yet been reached.” He added that many points have been agreed upon, but “a few” remain, including one “very important” one, without specifying which one. Trump promised to call Zelensky and European leaders soon, stressing that “ultimately, it's up to them.” He also suggested that he would meet with Putin again, to which Putin replied, “Next time in Moscow.”⁶ In an interview with Fox News, Trump suggested a three-way meeting with Putin and Zelensky, noting that if they wanted it, he would be there. At the same time, it was unclear who would organize the meeting and at what stage preparations were. The US president expressed the opinion that they are close to an agreement and that Ukraine must now agree and involve European countries. He said he would advise Zelensky to conclude the agreement, but did not specify the details. Trump rated the summit in Alaska 10 out of 10, emphasizing the importance of communication between major nuclear powers. At the same time, he noted that the agreement was blocked by “one important thing,” without revealing what exactly prevented the agreement. The US president acknowledged that he discussed the exchange of territories and security guarantees with Putin, and that they reached agreement on some points, without specifying which ones.

Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov said that it is currently unknown when the next meeting between Putin and Trump will take place, and that a trilateral meeting with Zelensky was not discussed. When asked about sanctions against Russia, Trump replied that he does not currently plan to impose them and needs 2-3 weeks to think it over. He stressed that the meeting went very well. Before flying to Alaska, Trump spoke to reporters and confirmed that he had discussed a possible exchange of territories, but that the final decision would be up to Ukraine. He emphasized that his task was to bring the parties to the negotiating table, not to negotiate on behalf of Ukraine.

The US president also reminded that without him, Putin would seek to seize all of Ukraine, and that there are “many businessmen” in the Russian delegation, which is good, but they will not be able to do business while the war continues. The main topic of the summit in Alaska was the war in Ukraine. However, as the Wall Street Journal notes, **For the Kremlin, the priority was not peace talks, but an attempt to break out of international isolation and “reset” Russian-American relations.** Russian officials discussed potential joint projects with the US in the Arctic, energy, and infrastructure. Kirill Dmitriev, one of Putin's advisors, stated

⁶ Не домовились, але угода близько? Головні підсумки зустрічі Путіна і Трампа на Алясці. 15.08.2025.
<https://www.bbc.com/ukrainian/articles/c5yp95re5lno>

that the dialogue between the leaders would “bring hope, peace, and global security,” noting that neoconservatives and “warmongers” would be dissatisfied. Former ambassador Alexander Yakovenko added that *resolving the war in Ukraine is secondary to normalizing relations with the US and is merely an obstacle that must be overcome.*

Some Western diplomats and Russian analysts believe that **Putin is confident of victory on the front lines and hopes for a change of power in Kyiv, especially after the reduction in US military aid.** Political scientist Abbas Gallyamov notes that the Kremlin is ready to make minor concessions, but has no intention of ending the war and seeks to separate the Ukrainian issue from relations with the US: the “ideal scenario” for Moscow is to talk about business, the Arctic, and security, while ignoring Ukraine.

Analysts also point out that for **Putin the fact of negotiating with Trump on US soil is already a diplomatic triumph.** According to their estimates, he may agree to a limited ceasefire, which would halt strikes on Russian oil and military infrastructure and civil aviation. BBC correspondent Miroslava Petsa notes the atmosphere in Anchorage: locals joked about Alaska and Russia, and more yellow and blue symbols appeared in the city. People hung Ukrainian flags on their houses and cars, held pro-Ukrainian rallies, knew about the children deported by Russia, and demanded their return. Many of the participants had previously visited Ukraine as volunteers or tourists and supported Ukrainians, sometimes apologizing for the policies of the US government.

Despite this, preparations for the summit were extremely rapid — less than a week passed between the announcement and the event itself. Alaska has hosted summits before, but the last such meeting took place 40 years ago. According to former Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich, concerns have been raised about possible surveillance equipment on board Putin's plane and the fact that it landed at a US military base. Donald Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton believes that **Following the meeting in Alaska, the American leader did not lose, but Vladimir Putin appears to be the winner.** He expressed this opinion on CNN, according to Ukrinform. Bolton noted that Trump left the summit with almost no concrete results, having achieved nothing more than “new meetings,” while Putin, in his opinion, made significant progress in restoring relations with the US, avoided new sanctions, and is not obliged to cease fire. Bolton added that even Zelensky was not informed of the details of these agreements before the press conference, and concluded: “Putin got most of what he wanted, and Trump got very little.” The former adviser also noted that Trump looked “very tired” after the summit.

Putin has not visited the US since 2015, when he attended the UN General Assembly in New York. **Trump's invitation to the US brought the Russian leader out of international isolation:** Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Putin has not visited any Western countries. The AP agency notes that this is also the first official trip by any Russian president to Alaska. These territories were formerly a Russian colony, but in 1867, Tsar Alexander II sold Alaska to the United States for \$7.2 million. Professor Sam Green of King's College London noted the symbolism of Alaska as a venue for negotiations on Ukraine — “as if to demonstrate that borders can be changed, land can be bought and sold.”

The meeting place — the Elmendorf-Richardson Joint Base of the US Air Force and Army near Anchorage — echoes the Cold War, when anti-missile posts and reconnaissance systems were located here to deter the USSR. Despite its proximity to Russia (88 km to the shortest distance between the mainland), the flight from Moscow to Anchorage takes about nine hours, and from Washington, D.C., about eight. Alaska is a “safe” place for Putin because he does not risk arrest under an International Criminal Court warrant, and the air route does not cross countries where problems may arise. Putin's last visit to the West was in 2021 in

Geneva, where he met with Joe Biden amid a Russian military buildup near the Ukrainian border, but this did not prevent the 2022 invasion.

The American side, including White House spokeswoman Levitt, Rubio, and Pentagon chief Hagseth, positioned the summit as a “listening exercise” so that Trump could personally assess Putin's willingness to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine. Rubio noted that previous telephone contacts had been unsuccessful, so the president wanted to “look Putin in the eye.” Putin's aide Ushakov named the main topic of the talks as the settlement of the war in Ukraine, in particular “taking into account the discussions in the Kremlin with Vitkoff.” At the same time, it was planned to discuss bilateral economic cooperation and global security issues.

A few days before the summit, the Russian Foreign Ministry repeated its demands for the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the unoccupied areas of four regions and Ukraine's refusal to join NATO. The Kremlin insists that “Russia's territorial structure is enshrined in the Constitution,” meaning that it seeks to retain the occupied territories of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Initially, representatives of the Trump administration considered the possibility of Zelenskyy's participation in the talks in Alaska. However, on August 13-14, Donald Trump made it clear that he would prefer to hold a separate trilateral meeting with Putin and Zelensky if he considers the summit in Alaska to be productive. The location of such a potential meeting has not yet been determined, but Trump suggested that Alaska could be the most convenient option. Reuters notes that the meeting could also take place in Europe or the Middle East, while Bloomberg specified that Turkey could be the venue, which Trump allegedly mentioned in a conversation with Zelensky and European leaders.

The results of the conversation on August 13 allowed Zelensky to define five key principles for Ukraine: a ceasefire; tougher sanctions against Russia if it refuses to agree to a truce; discussion of all issues concerning Ukraine exclusively with its representatives; preparation for trilateral negotiations; and security guarantees for Ukraine. Politico reported similar expectations, including a lasting ceasefire until territorial issues are resolved, strong security guarantees, compensation for damages, and the return of abducted children and prisoners. Zelensky also stressed that Ukraine would never agree to Putin's demand to withdraw troops from the unoccupied parts of Donbas.

Analysts did not expect significant progress from the summit in Alaska. A trilateral meeting between Trump, Zelensky, and Putin is only possible if Trump considers the negotiations with Putin to be successful. According to Axios, even if the Alaska summit fails, Trump does not plan to stop NATO arms supplies to Ukraine. He remains “angry” at Putin, and the administration believes that the US has the ability to quickly “destroy the Russian economy.” When asked about the consequences for Russia in the absence of a peace agreement, Trump replied, “Yes, there will be consequences,” but did not specify the details, only adding that they would be “very serious.” He estimated the probability of a failed meeting at 25% and said that in that case he would return “to running the country.”⁷ “If the meeting goes badly, I will go home and not call anyone. But if it is successful, I will call Zelensky and European leaders,” Trump concluded.

⁷ Деізоляція диктатора на Алясці. Сьогодні Трамп говоритиме про Україну з Путіним, який не був на Заході від початку вторгнення — чого чекати. 15.08.2025.
<https://nv.ua/ukr/world/geopolitics/zustrich-trampa-i-putina-na-alyasci-yaka-osobliva-rol-miscya-rozklad-temi-scenariji-y-chervoni-liniji-50537038.html>

This event will go down in history books as symbolic and decisive in the decline of the American era, when the hegemon of the West became a laughing stock and a toy in the eyes of its opponents, whom it had once powerfully defeated. And Donald Trump satisfied his ego by going down in history, not as the great peacemaker he dreamed of being, but as the pompous peacemaker who destroyed an empire.